[4th December 1954

Erection of a plant in the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, for producing gas from cow-dung.

* 36 Q.—SRI K. PARTHASARATHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the cost, the names of suppliers and the use made of the plant erected in the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, for producing gas from cow-dung?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The cost of the plant erected in the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, for producing gas from cow-dung is Rs. 1,802–1–4 and it was supplied by Sri J. P. & Co., Chapel Lane, Santa Cruz West, Bombay-23. The gas from this plant is at present used at the Agricultural College for heating purposes like heating water baths and the thermostat."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Is it the intention of the Government to popularise this plant, if it is found useful, for purposes of driving irrigation pumps and other farm machinery? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, I think it is worthwhile popularising the plant for use by the ryots."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, could not water be heated by directly burning cow-dung heaps rather than first putting it in the plant and then producing gas to heat water? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir. The burning of the cow-dung through this plant produces gas which could even run a generator and produce electricity for working pumpsets to lift water. The digested slurry out of the dung that has been burnt is found to possess the manuring qualities possessed by the cow-dung itself."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" What happens to the remnants of the cow-dung after extraction of the gas? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have just answered that they are as good manure as the original cow-dung."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" May I know the materials used in the production of the cow-dung gas? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, cow-dung is mixed with equal quantity of water and fed into the digester. The daily feed is 235 lb. of fresh cattle-dung and the production is 135 c.ft. of fuel gas."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Is it desirable to use nightsoil in the place of cow-dung? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know, Sir, whether it will be suitable for the purpose as cow-dung is."